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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): NOKIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS OY [FI/FI]; Keilalahdentie 4, FIN-02150 Espoo (FI).

(72) Inventors; and
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): HÄKKINEN, Hannu [FI/FI]; Vuokselantie 10 B, FIN-02140 Espoo (FI). HOTTINEN, Ari [FI/FI]; Kielotie 30-32 C 25, FIN-01300 Vantaa (FI). KOKKONEN, Mikko [FI/FI]; Isokaari 15 a B 32, FIN-00200 Helsinki (FI). WICHMAN, Risto [FI/FI]; Ilmarinkatu 16 B 7, FIN-00100 Helsinki (FI).

(74) Agent: PATENTTITOIMISTO TEKNOPOLIS KOLSTER OY; c/o Kolster Oy Ab, Iso Roobertinkatu 23, P.O. Box 148, FIN-00121 Helsinki (FI).

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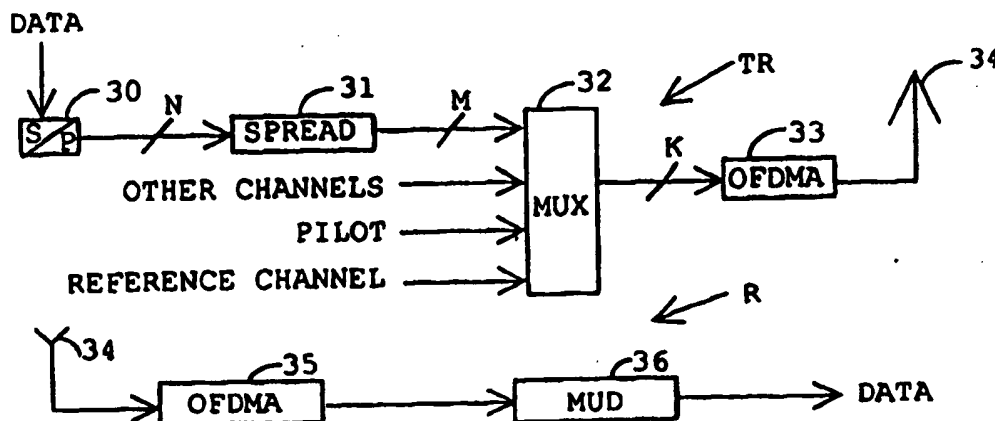
(57) Abstract

The invention relates to a transmitting and receiving method and a radio system. In a transmitter (TR) the signals (37) to be transmitted are spread coded in means (31) and modulated by subcarriers in means (33). In a receiver (R) the signals are demodulated in means (35) and submitted to multiuser detection in means (36) by using the subcarriers to limit the number of detectable signals in the means (35). The receiver (R) uses multiuser detection for reducing multiple access interference and correcting frequency-selective fading.

TRANSMITTING AND RECEIVING METHOD AND RADIO SYSTEM

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a transmitting and receiving method used in a digital radio system comprising at least one base station and subscriber ter-

5   minal communicating with one another by transmitting and receiving signals.

The invention also relates to a radio system comprising at least one base station and subscriber terminal with a transmitter and receiver arranged to transmit and receive digital signals.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART

10   In the CDMA method (Code Division Multiple Access), a narrow-band user data signal is multiplied to a relatively broad band by a spreading code having a considerably higher frequency than the data signal. Upon multiplication, the data signal is spread to the entire band in use. All users use the same frequency band for simultaneous transmission. The objective is to select

15   mutually substantially orthogonal spreading codes, i.e. codes that have minimal mutual correlation.

In a CDMA receiver implemented in a conventional manner, a data signal is returned in the receiver to the original band by multiplying it again with the same spreading code as at the transmission stage. The signals of

20   other users impede the detection of the desired signal by distorting the received signal. This interference, caused by users to each other, is called multiple access interference.

In the OFDMA method (Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiple Access) the spread-coded symbol train of a transmission signal is modulated by

25   subcarriers which are preferably distributed to a wide frequency band. OFDMA modulation is typically carried out by inverse Fourier transformation.

Multipath propagation causes distortion or crosstalk on radio system channels. In the CDMA system this can be detected in that a signal originally spread-coded with orthogonal spreading codes is no longer orthogonal upon

30   arrival at a receiver, there being crosstalk between signals of different channels. In the OFDMA system, subcarriers attenuate frequency-selectively, impairing detection. In the CDMA system, crosstalk is adjusted by using interference cancellation. In the OFDMA system, frequency-selective attenuation is compensated for by error correction.

35   However, the complexity of all methods eliminating crosstalk gener-

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ated by multipath propagation increases faster than the amount of information/
the bit string to be processed. Consequently, known methods cannot remove
this problem.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5   It is the object of the present invention to implement a method and a
radio system in which the amount of information to be processed can be lim-
ited thus allowing better elimination of various disturbances.

          This is achieved with the method described in the preamble, char-
acterized in that upon transmission the signals are spread-coded and modu-
10   lated by subcarriers in accordance with the OFDMA/CDMA methods, and
upon reception the signals are demodulated and multiuser-detected by se-
lecting the signals to be detected in the multiuser detection using the sub-
carriers and consequently reducing the number of signals in the multiuser de-
tection.

15   The radio system of the invention is characterized in that the trans-
mitter comprises means for spread coding and means for modulating the
transmission signals by subcarriers in accordance with the OFDMA/CDMA
methods, and the receiver comprises demodulation means arranged to select
a detectable signal on the basis of subcarriers, and means for multiuser de-
20   tection of the received signals.

          The method of the invention provides considerable advantages.
The method of the invention enables good tolerance of interference caused by
channel isolation and signal multipath propagation by means of a simple re-
ceiver implementation.

25 DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

          In the following the invention will be described in more detail with
reference to the examples according to the attached drawings, in which

          Figure 1 shows a radio system,

          Figure 2 shows subcarrier frequency hopping, and

30   Figure 3 shows the structure of a transmitter and a receiver.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

          The solution of the invention is particularly applicable to the OF-
DMA/CDMA radio system without, however, being restricted to it.

          Figure 1 shows a typical digital radio system comprising a base sta-

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tion 1, subscriber terminals 2 to 4, and a base station controller 5. The base station 1 communicates with the subscriber terminals 2 to 4 using signals 6 to 8. The base station 1 communicates with the base station controller 5 via a digital transmission link 9. Usually the subscriber terminal 2 to 4 is a mobile

5   telephone. The signals 6 to 8 between the base station 1 and the subscriber terminals 2 to 4 comprise digitized information: speech or data generated by subscribers, or control information generated by the radio system.

Let us now have a closer look at the method of the invention, the solution of which is based on the CDMA/OFDMA method. The CDMA/OFDMA

10   method is preferably used in communication between a base station and sub-scriber terminals in a digital radio system. In the method the spread coding of a transmission signal according to the CDMA method and the signal modulation by subcarriers according to the OFDMA method are preferably combined, and the signals are then demodulated and multiuser-detected in a receiver. It

15   is preferable to combine multiuser detection with the CDMA/OFDMA method since this enables separation of the signal components generated in multipath propagation and, consequently, restriction of the number of detectable signals, which in turn enables reduction of crosstalk caused by multipath propagation.

In the method of the invention, the signals are spread according to

20   CDMA by e.g. multiplying each symbol pertaining to the data to be transmitted and comprising a bit or a bit combination with a spreading code V having a higher frequency than the data. The spreading codes V are preferably e.g. Walsh/Hadamard codes, substantially orthogonal with respect to one another, i.e. having minimal mutual correlation. The spread-coded symbols are prefera-

25   bly combined by summing into a continuous spread-coded symbol string. This can be expressed mathematically as follows:

$$U = \sum_{l=1}^{K} b_l V_l = [u_0, u_1, ..., u_{N_s-1}], \tag{1}$$

where N_s is the length of the spreading code V_l, and b_l represents transmission

30   bits by a mapping $b_l \in [-1, 1]$.

A received OFDMA signal can be expressed as:

$$y(nt_s) = (-1)^n \sum_{l=0}^{L-1} \sum_{i=0}^{N_s-1} H_l^i u_i^l e^{j2\pi f_{cw_i} \cdot} + N(t), \tag{2}$$

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where $f_{IN,+1} = f_0 + \frac{IN_s+1}{T_s}$, $T = T_s + \sigma$, σ is safety time, N is the total number of subcarriers, T_s is symbol duration time, N(t) is noise summed in a signal, and f_0 is the frequency of the lowest subcarrier. We can see that the set $\left[H_i' u_i'\right]$ is a discrete Fourier transformation (DFT) of the signal set $\left[y(nt_s)\frac{(-1)^n}{N}\right]$. According

5   to prior art, the CDMA/OFDMA radio system subcarriers are generated from a signal to be transmitted by e.g. discrete inverse Fourier transformation. DFT consequently generates a filter bank, each filter being adapted to a multiplexed subcarrier. DFT transformation is preferably implemented in accordance with prior art as fast Fourier transformation, i.e. as FFT transformation.

10   Thus, an OFDMA signal can be generated by inverse FFT transformation. When a safety time σ, which is longer than the channel impulse response, is preferably reserved between each symbol, the symbols are not mixed in reception since the channel properties change slowly compared with the symbol duration time. The CDMA/OFDMA method has been described in more detail

15   e.g. in the publication: Performance of CDMA/OFDMA for Mobile Communication System, Khaled Fazel, IEEE ICUP'93, pp. 975 to 979, 1993, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Upon reception, a CDMA/OFDMA signal according to the invention is OFDMA demodulated, preferably as FFT transformation, and multiuser-

20   detected by using the following solution of principle:

$$\hat{x} = sgnH^{-1}y = R^{-1}\bar{y}, \tag{3}$$

where $\hat{x}$ denotes the symbols/bits of the transmitted signal, H^1 is the inverse

25   matrix of the cross-correlation matrix of the spreading codes V, y is a received signal at e.g. the output of an adapted filter, R^1 is a normalized cross-correlation matrix, and $\bar{y}$ is a normalized output of an adapted filter, commonly used in receivers to correct the signal distortions caused by a channel.

An optimal receiver can be approximated by various methods. In

30   CDMA systems, various methods are used for multiuser detection (MUD). The most common methods include linear multiuser detection, a decorrelating detector and a multi-stage detector. These methods have been described in more detail in the following references: Varanasi, Aazhang: Multistage detection for asynchronous code division multiple access communications, IEEE

35   Transactions on Communications, vol. 38, pp. 509 to 519, Apr 1990; Lupas,

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Verdu: Linear multiuser detectors for synchronous code-division multiple access channels, IEEE Transactions on Information Theory, vol. 35, No. 1, pp. 123 to 136, Jan 1989; and Lupas, Verdu: Near-far resistance of multiuser detectors in asynchronous channels, IEEE Transactions on Communications, vol. 38, Apr 1990. However, many operations requiring computing capacity, such as matrix inversion operations, are associated with these methods, too.

Another way to solve the problems caused by multiuser interference is to use interference cancellation (IC). In IC-type solutions, users are detected one by one, often in the order of magnitude by removing the effect of the signals of detected users from the received transmission before the next user is detected. Patent publication EP 491668, in which a procedure of the above type is applied to a CDMA cellular radio system, is incorporated as a reference by way of example of such a solution. Interference cancellation methods are computationally more efficient than MUD-type algorithms, but their performance is lower particularly under difficult reception conditions, such as in multipath fading where signal levels are often weak. These methods are best suited for lowering interference originating from the user cell, and thus for improving system capacity.

In the method of the invention, multiuser detection is performed so as to reduce multiple access interference and/or correct frequency-selective fading, resulting in improved detection quality.

In the solution of the invention, the received signals are also grouped or separated from one another according to subcarriers. A subcarrier set has been allocated to each signal, or user. This allows a desired signal set to be selected for multiuser detection or only one signal to be separated for detection. This way subcarriers serve to reduce the number of signals in multiuser detection. This also means that signals are not separated according to spreading codes, but all used spreading codes are allocated to all users.

In the solution of the invention, a prior art maximum likelihood (ML) multiuser detection, or a multiuser detection method based on the like, disassembles the spread coding, generates estimates from the received signal by using a channel estimate; and compares these with a real received signal. Bit or symbol decisions are made in accordance with the most compatible estimate. The channel estimate is generated in a known manner from e.g. a pilot or reference signal, reference data comprising predetermined symbols, or from one or more directly detectable signals.

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In the solution of the invention, subcarriers are selected from the frequency band non-uniformly. This is advantageous since undesirable fading situations can be avoided particularly in 2-way channels. Furthermore, the solution of the invention is particularly advantageous when used in the downlink

5   direction of a radio system with the base station spread coding and modulating the signal and the subscriber terminal multiuser-detecting the signal transmitted from the base station. An advantage of this solution is, for example, that in reception the signals can be grouped so as to detect only some of them. All received signals are detected at the base station any way, and thus subcarrier

10   grouping would be quite useless. However, such a solution reduces the computing performed at the subscriber terminal and consequently the necessary computing capacity and energy consumption.

In the method of the invention, subcarriers are hopped by changing the frequency of the modulating subcarrier of each spread-coded signal in a

15   predetermined manner. This allows the signals to be separated from one another upon reception preferably according to the way in which subcarrier frequency hopping takes place, i.e. according to the hopping sequence. The primary purpose of such a procedure is to multiplex different base stations to the same band.

20   In the method of the invention, subcarrier frequency hopping is implemented by evenly utilizing substantially the entire frequency band. This improves evenly the fading tolerance of all signals.

In the method of the invention, subcarrier frequency hopping is implemented orthogonally by one carrier at a time being available to only one

25   transmitted signal. This can be easily implemented within the range of one cell. This allows signal collisions to be minimized in reception.

Referring now to Figure 2, which shows subcarrier frequency hopping at the output of an OFDMA modulator. The y-axis represents frequency and the x-axis time. In Figure 2, possible subcarrier frequencies c1 to c16 are

30   uniform, while subcarriers 20 to 23 are per se preferably non-uniform. As a result of hopping, the frequencies of the subcarriers 20 to 23 change for all signals when moving from one instant t1 to t3 to another. Additionally, the subcarriers 20 to 23 are evenly distributed to the frequency band at the interval c1 to c16.

35   Reference is now made to the block diagram of a transmitter and receiver in Figure 3. The transmitter TR comprises a series-parallel converter

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30, spread coding means 31, a multiplexer 32, modulation means 33, and an antenna 34. The receiver R comprises an antenna 34, demodulation means 35, and multiuser detection means 36. The transmitter TR and the receiver R implement the inventive method. On the transmitter the data is conveyed as

5   e.g. a bit string to the series-parallel converter 30, which converts series-mode data into parallel-mode. Let us assume that the series-parallel converter 30 has generated a parallel-mode N-bit block of data. These data are spread coded by a spreading sequence of length M in the means 31 whose outputs are summed in the multiplexer 32 into a substantially continuous data flow.

10   The summed sequence is modulated with K subcarriers by the means 33, which is preferably an OFDMA modulator. M < K is true for K subcarriers. The sum signal modulated by the subcarriers is transmitted in accordance with prior art via the antenna 34.

As the receiver antenna 34 receives signals, the means 35 disas-

15   semble the subcarrier modulation of the desired signal or signals by FFT transformation. The means 36 submit the demodulated signal to multiuser detection in accordance with prior art. The means 35 group or separate the signals based on the modulation and consequently select the desired signal or signals to detection.

20   Let us study another example of the inventive solution. In this example the invention is applied to the downlink direction of a radio system, i.e. the transmission direction from a base station to a subscriber terminal. The base station modulates a transmission signal by subcarriers and transmits the generated multicarrier signal on a band width providing sufficient diversity

25   against selective fading. Typically there are dozens or hundreds of subcarriers in use. Eight carriers are reserved for each channel/signal, for example. Signal information is also usually error protected and interleaved in some manner, although it is not essential to the invention. The information to be transmitted is divided in e.g. 8-bit groups and spread-coded by e.g. 8 orthogonal spreading

30   codes which are preferably Walsh-Hadamard sequences. The spread-coded signals are summed and these 8 sum signals are coupled to subcarrier modulators in which the signals are modulated to subcarriers. If frequency hopping is used, the subcarrier modulator also hops the frequency of the subcarrier of each signal in a predetermined manner. One channel preferably only

35   comprises one signal and one subcarrier. In this case each channel uses e.g. each 10th OFDMA signal for the transfer of an 8-bit group time divisionally.

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In multiuser detection taking place in a multisymbol detector, detection for 8 parallel bits/symbols is provided by the detected signals and the estimated channel response. At this stage known interference cancellation and multi access detection methods can be utilized, since the originally orthogonal

5   spreading codes are no longer orthogonal because of multipath propagation. Crosstalk can be reduced when channel response and spreading codes are known. Crosstalk occurs between channels inside a cell only because of multipath propagation. However, it is negligible because of the relatively long symbol duration.

10   In the solution of the invention, subcarrier modulation is preferably carried out as linear modulation, such as phase and amplitude modulation.

The solution of the invention can be implemented by ASIC or VLSI circuits, particularly as regards digital signal processing. The functions to be performed are preferably implemented by microprocessor technology-based

15   software.

Although the invention is described in the above with reference to the example in accordance with the accompanying drawings, it will be appreciated that the invention is not to be so limited, but the it may be modified in a variety of ways within the scope of the inventive idea disclosed in the ap-

20   pended claims.

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CLAIMS

1. A transmitting and receiving method used in a digital radio system comprising at least one base station (1) and subscriber terminal (2 to 4) communicating with one another by transmitting and receiving signals (6 to 8),
5   characterized in that upon transmission the signals (6 to 8) are spread-coded and modulated by subcarriers (20 to 23) in accordance with the OFDMA/CDMA methods, and upon reception the signals (6 to 8) are demodulated and multiuser-detected by selecting the signals to be detected in the multiuser detection using the subcarriers (20 to 23) and consequently re-
10   ducing the number of signals in the multiuser detection.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that upon reception, as multiple access interference and frequency-selective fading cause signal (6 to 8) quality to change, multiuser detection is performed on the detectable signals to reduce multiple access interference and/or correct selec-
15   tive fading.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that upon reception, a predetermined group of signals is selected to be detected on the basis of the subcarriers (20 to 23).

4. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that
20   upon reception, only one signal is selected to be detected on the basis of the subcarriers (20 to 23).

5. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that as the subcarriers (20 to 23) reserve a given frequency band, the subcarriers are selected non-uniformly from the frequency band.

25   6. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the method is used particularly in the downlink direction of a radio system with the base station (1) spread coding and modulating the signal (6 to 8) and the subscriber terminal (2 to 4) multiuser-detecting the signal (6 to 8).

7. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that
30   upon modulation, the subcarriers (20 to 23) are hopped by changing the modulating subcarrier (20 to 23) of each spread-coded signal (6 to 8) in a predetermined manner.

8. A method as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the frequency hopping of the subcarriers (20 to 23) is implemented by evenly util-
35   izing substantially the entire frequency band.

9. A method as claimed in claim 7, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the frequency hopping of the subcarriers (20 to 23) is implemented orthogonally by one carrier at a time being available to only one transmitted signal.

10. A method as claimed in claim 7, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that
5   the single signal or the several signals to be detected upon reception are chosen by means of the hop sequence of the subcarriers (20 to 23).

11. A radio system comprising at least one base station (1) and subscriber terminal (2 to 4) with a transmitter (TR) and receiver (R) arranged to transmit and receive digital signals (6 to 8), c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the
10 transmitter (TR) comprises means (31) for spread coding and means (33) for modulating the transmission signals (6 to 8) by subcarriers (20 to 23) in accordance with the OFDMA/CDMA methods, and the receiver (R) comprises demodulation means (35) arranged to select a detectable signal on the basis of subcarriers (20 to 23), and means (36) for multiuser detection of the received
15 signals.

12. A radio system as claimed in claim 11, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the receiver (R) is arranged to perform multiuser detection for reducing multiple access interference and/or correcting selective fading as signal quality in the channel changes because of multiple access interference and fre-
20 quency-selective fading.

13. A radio system as claimed in claim 11, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the demodulation means (35) are arranged to select a predetermined group of signals to be detected on the basis of the subcarriers (20 to 23).

14. A radio system as claimed in claim 11, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in
25 that the demodulation means (35) are arranged to select only one signal to be detected on the basis of the subcarriers (20 to 23).

15. A radio system as claimed in claim 11, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that as the subcarriers (20 to 23) reserve a given frequency band, the modulation means (33) are arranged to select the modulating subcarriers (20 to 23)
30 non-uniformly from the frequency band.

16. A radio system as claimed in claim 11, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the base station (1) is the transmitter (TR) and the subscriber terminal (2 to 4) is the receiver (R).

17. A radio system as claimed in claim 11, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in
35 that the modulation means (33) are arranged to hop the subcarriers (20 to 23) by changing the subcarrier (20 to 23) modulating each spread-coded signal in

a predetermined manner.

18. A radio system as claimed in claim 17, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that as the subcarriers (20 to 23) reserve a given frequency band, the modulation means (33) are arranged to hop the subcarriers (20 to 23) by evenly util-
5   izing substantially the entire frequency band.

19. A radio system as claimed in claim 17, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the modulation means (33) are arranged to hop the subcarriers (20 to 23) orthogonally by one subcarrier (20 to 23) at a time being available to only one transmitted signal.

10   20. A radio system as claimed in claim 17, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the demodulation means (35) are arranged to select one or more signals for detection by means of the hop sequence of the subcarriers (20 to 23).

FIG. 1

FIG. 2

DATA

FIG. 3